

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

Claims 1-5 and 8-18 are pending and under consideration.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants acknowledge that claims 2, 11, 13, 14, and 16-18 have been allowed.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 10, 12, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0012498 – hereinafter Lee) in view of JP 2003-253224 (hereinafter - Fukuyama).

The effective U.S. filing date of Lee is March 3, 2004, while the present application has a filing date of June 23, 2003. The present application claims a benefit of a foreign filing based on Korean Patent Application No. 2003-40770, filed on June 23, 2003. Accordingly, since Lee was filed *after* the present invention was made, Lee does not qualify as a prior art reference under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

In the Office Action mailed June 28, 2005, the Examiner has acknowledged receipt of certified copies of the priority documents for the benefit of the foreign filing date. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.55(a)(4), an English language translation of the Korean Patent Application is provided herein.

Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claims 5 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee in view of Fukuyama, and further in view of Hirotsuru et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,447,894). Claims 5 and 9 depend on independent claim 1. For reasons stated above, Lee does not qualify as a prior art reference under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, reconsideration of all outstanding rejections is respectfully requested. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the Applicants respectfully request the relied upon U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0012498 be removed as a reference.

There being no further outstanding rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

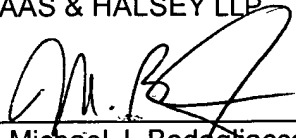
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Response, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 9-20-06

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